

Appl. No.: 10/623,271  
Supplemental Amendment Dated: March 7, 2008  
Reply to Office Action of September 19, 2007

### **REMARKS**

The claims have been reviewed and amended in a manner to improve clarity. Many of those claim amendments were suggested by the Examiner during a teleconference with the undersigned on March 7, 2008.

The specification indicates that support member includes a plurality of apertures each capable of receiving a connector therein, i.e., connectors 90 or connector 95. Independent Claim 1 has thus been amended to refer to a plurality of apertures in a support member, to refer to "a casing" rather than "an external casing," and to remove reference to "a stationary base unit." This amendment resulted in the elimination of the language with respect to a plurality of apertures in this shell each capable of accepting a connector therein. Claim 1 as amended is thus similar in some respects to previously presented Claim 23. Claim 1 has been further amended to recite that a metacarpal unit pivots vertically about a pair of connectors in a first direction relative to the base unit, and that the hinge system further includes another connector forming a swivel joint for removably connecting the metacarpal unit to the base unit such that the metacarpal unit pivots laterally in a second direction.

The term "external" has been deleted from Claims 4, 9, 20, 24, and 35. Independent Claims 16, 23, 27, and 30 have each been amended in a manner generally consistent with amended Claim 1.


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In view of the above, early allowance of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

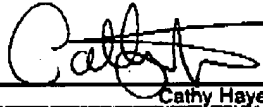
  
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Date: March 7, 2008

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